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112 Ransom Rd.
Falmouth, MA 02540.
July 27, 1986.

Dear Josh,

Thanks for your note. Luria's recollection of Woods Hole seems likely to be a substitution for CSH, for I distinctly recall being in the lunch room at CSH, either at a June meeting or taking the phage course, when I was called to the phone and my technician, Ber Mingioli, told me of the great success of the method as soon as she inserted the intermediate cultivation step between the UV irradiation and the penicillin exposure. Perhaps I should add that concrete note to the story. Anyhow, the date was surely the summer before the publication. My recollection is that I told everybody about it, and you visited me that fall.

Since we're going to Europe in about a week I won't be able to finish my piece, including a few refs., until I get back into my office in early Sept. I imagine you'd like to get the job over with; I hope you won't mind this delay.

Thanks for the articles on Jensen. I appreciate your appreciation of his honesty, coupled with political naivete or insensitivity. I've got to know him a bit in my sojourns in the Bay area, and I consider him a terribly maligned man, with no desire except to advance educational psychology.

There are minor points in your pieces in which I think you went along with the Zeitgeist and waffled a bit -- especially in ignoring the fundamental role of probability in science, and proceeding as though we know absolutely nothing if we don't have rigorous proof. But I don't enjoy proselytizing for my position any more -- history will tell. My guess is that even before neurogenetics is far advanced plain neurobiology will be showing us that the computers in some crania have faster synapses than those in others, and what we call intelligence will have a lot to do with how fast we can process information, in a Darwinian process of trial and error in sending out impulses and getting responses. I have no doubt that your brain responds to a stimulus with a far richer set of associations per unit time than mine, and mine than most others; and this cannot be a matter of training, whose influence will be on the direction of the associations but not on their variety.

I look forward to your response to the book. It was very nice seeing you -- far too long.

Cordially,



Bernard D. Davis

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